

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A fishing apparatus, comprising:
  - a unitary buoyant board-like support member having at least a pair of opposing gripping apertures or upwardly facing indentions provided therein to serve as a surfacing aid, the gripping apertures or indentions each being disposed adjacent respective opposing edges of the support member and each being elongated along an axis that is substantially parallel to the respective opposing edges to facilitate insertion of the fingers of both hands of a user in the respective pair of gripping apertures or indentions simultaneously, thereby providing for balanced hand gripping of the support member by a user;
  - a fish container secured to the support member for holding fish; and
  - a first bait container secured to the support member for storing bait.
2. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a cleat mounted thereon for tethering to a user.
3. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a securing aperture therethrough for tethering to a user.
4. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member is filled with an expanded polystyrene material.
5. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a fluorescent outer surface.

6. (canceled)
7. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has four gripping indentations provided therein.
8. (canceled)
9. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has four gripping apertures therethrough.
10. (previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tether secured at or near one of its ends to the support member, the tether adapted for being secured at or near the other of its ends to a user.
11. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member is equipped for measuring the length of a fish.
12. (currently amended) A fishing apparatus comprising:
  - a unitary buoyant board-like support member;
  - a fish container secured to the support member for holding fish, the fish container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough;
  - a first bait container secured to the support member for storing bait, the first bait container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough; and
  - a first upright tubular [[gear]] container secured to and extending substantially above the support member for supporting elongated fishing gear in a substantially vertical position above the support member.

13. (canceled)
14. (previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a utility bar secured to the support member, the utility bar having a plurality of storage apertures therethrough for receiving fishing gear.
15. (currently amended) The fishing apparatus of claim 14, comprising at least three upright tubular ~~[[gear]]~~ containers secured to and extending substantially above the support member, and wherein the utility bar is connected across the three upright ~~[[gear]]~~ tubular containers at an elevation above the upper surface of the support member.
16. (previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member is equipped with at least one rudder for stability while fishing, the rudder having at least two flat sides.
17. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a fish-holding aperture sized and shaped to receive the fish container therethrough, whereby a portion of the fish container extends downwardly beneath the support member.
18. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 17, wherein the fish container is a generally tubular-shaped net that permits the submergence of fish disposed therein while fishing.
19. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the net has a mouth that is adjustable between an open configuration and a closed configuration.
20. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a bait-

holding aperture sized and shaped to receive the first bait container therethrough, whereby a portion of the first bait container extends downwardly beneath the support member.

21. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first bait container is adapted for holding live bait.
22. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first bait container is substantially cylindrical and has an openable lid.
23. (original) The fishing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first bait container is made of plastic.
24. (currently amended) A fishing apparatus comprising:
  - a unitary buoyant board-like support member;
  - a fish container secured to the support member adjacent one end thereof for holding live fish, the fish container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough;
  - a first bait container secured to the support member adjacent another end thereof opposite the one end for holding the live ~~[[bait]]~~ fish, the first bait container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough, whereby the fish container and first bait container oppose one another; and
  - a second bait container secured to the support member between the fish container and the first bait container for holding artificial bait.
25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 24, wherein the second bait container is secured to the upper surface of the support member and includes at least one plastic box having an openable lid and a plurality of bait-holding compartments.
27. (previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 24, wherein the second bait container is secured to the upper surface of the support member and includes a plurality of stacked plastic boxes each having an openable lid and a plurality of bait-holding compartments.
28. (currently amended) A fishing apparatus, comprising:
- a unitary buoyant board-like support member having at least a pair of opposing gripping apertures or upwardly facing indentions provided therein to serve as a surfacing aid, the gripping apertures or indentions each being disposed adjacent respective opposing edges of the support member and each being elongated along an axis that is substantially parallel to the respective opposing edges to facilitate insertion of the fingers of both hands of a user in the respective pair of gripping apertures or indentions simultaneously, thereby providing for balanced hand gripping of the support member by a user;
  - a fish container secured to the support member for holding live fish, the fish container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough; and
  - a bait container secured to the support member for holding live bait, the bait container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough.